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10/710,964	08/15/2004	Yongyong Xu		4963

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44642	7590	10/17/2006	MORRISON, JAY A

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2168	

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/710,964	XU, YONGYONG
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jay A. Morrison	2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>25 September 2006</u>.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-101</u> is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>31-59</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-30 and 60-101</u> is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>15 August 2004</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/15/04</u>.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1.   Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 8/25/06 is

acknowledged. Claims 1-30 and 60-101 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claims 1-30 and 84-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed

invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims lack the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine

or a manufacture within the meaning of 35 USC 101. They are clearly not a series of

steps or acts to be a process nor are they a combination of chemical compounds to be

a composition of matter. As such, they fail to fall within a statutory category. They are, at

best, functional descriptive material *per se*.

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive

material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Both types of "descriptive material" are

nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material *per se*, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ2d

at 1759. When functional descriptive material is recorded on some computer-readable

medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be

statutory in most cases since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive

material to be realized. Compare *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d

1031, 1035 (Fed. Cir. 1994)

Merely claiming nonfunctional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored on a computer-readable medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, does not make it statutory. See *Diehr*, 450 U.S. at 185-86, 209 USPQ at 8 (noting that the claims for an algorithm in *Benson* were unpatentable as abstract ideas because "[t]he sole practical application of the algorithm was in connection with the programming of a general purpose computer.").

Claim Objections

2.   Claims 1 and 86 are objected to because of the following informalities:

a.   As per claim 1: "ones of the plurality of users" should be "one of the plurality of users".

b.   As per claim 60, line 3: "URL" should be "uniform resource locator (URL)". Please note that other acronyms appear in the claims and should likewise be corrected as necessary.

c.   As per claim 83, line 2: "non-disrubutive" should be "non-distributive".

d.   As per claim 86: "comprisinga" should be "comprising a".

e.   As per claim 101, lines 2-3: "software resides the software resource" should be "software resides in the software resource".

Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

3.   The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds the limit of 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5.   Claims 1-6,11-14,16,18-19,25,27,29,67,70,73-75,78,80-82,85,93 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly

point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the

invention.

        Claim 1 recites the limitation "the plurality of users" in line 5. There is insufficient

antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

        Claim 1 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 5. There is insufficient

antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

        Claim 1 recites the limitation "they " in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent

basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the

Applicant meant "the plurality of users".

        Claim 1 recites the limitation "the resource based virtual community" in line 5-6.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the

Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", however the

particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not

clear.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the accessed resource" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 6-7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the accessed resource".

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the plurality of resources" in line 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the plurality of associated resources".

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the plurality of resources" in line 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the plurality of associated resources".

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the plurality of resources" in line 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the plurality of associated resources".

Claim 5 recites the limitation "the plurality of resources" in line 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the plurality of associated resources".

Claim 6 recites the limitation "they" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "users".

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the accessed resource".

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the community" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", and it can be assumed that the application meant a resource based virtual community, however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 12 recites the limitation "the community" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", and it can be assumed that the application meant a resource based virtual community, however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 13 recites the limitation "the community" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", and it can be assumed that the application meant a resource based virtual community, however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "they" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the community members".

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the accessed resource".

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the resources" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the plurality of accessed resources".

Claim 18 recites the limitation "the resource server" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 18 recites the limitation "the virtual community" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", and it can be assumed that the application meant a resource based virtual community, however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 18 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the accessed resource".

Claim 19 recites the limitation "the plurality of web resource servers" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 25 recites the limitation "the community" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", and it can be assumed that the

application meant a resource based virtual community, however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 27 recites the limitation "the community" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", and it can be assumed that the application meant a resource based virtual community, however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 27 recites the limitation "the resource being served" in line 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 29 recites the limitation "the plurality of communities" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For purposes of examination it is assumed the Applicant meant "the plurality of resource based virtual communities".

Claim 67 recites the limitation "the community" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 70 recites the limitation "the current status" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 73 recites the limitation "the resource based virtual community" in lines 7-8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of resource based virtual communities", however the particular resource based virtual community chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 73 recites the limitation "the accessed resource" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 74 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 75 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 75 recites the limitation "the user" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of users", however the particular user chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 78 recites the limitation "the resource" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 80 recites the limitation "the accessed resource" in lines 5,6, and 7, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is

noted that the Applicant defines "accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 81 recites the limitation "the original resource" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 81 recites the limitation "the accessed resource" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 82 recites the limitation "the user" in lines 5 and 6, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of users", however the particular user chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 82 recites the limitation "the accessed resource" in line 7. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "accessed resources", however the particular accessed resource chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 82 recites the limitation "the user" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a plurality of users", however the particular user chosen from among the plurality is not clear.

Claim 85 recites the limitation "the user" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is noted that the Applicant defines "a

plurality of users", however the particular user chosen from among the plurality is not

clear.

Claim 93 recites the limitation "the protocol handling chain" in lines 2-3. There is

insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Note: the art rejections are made given the best understanding given the

presented claims, which are difficult to interpret because of the abundance of

assumptions were required due to their drafting.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10,15-19,22,25-28,73-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Pearlman et al. ('Pearlman' hereinafter) ("A community authorization

service for group collaboration" by Pearlman, L., Welch, V., Foster, I., Kesselman, C.

and Tuecke, S.; Policies for Distributed Systems and Networks, 2002. Proceedings

Third International Workshop on 5-7 June 2002; Page(s): 50 - 59).

As per claim 1, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

A system of resource based virtual communities comprising: (see abstract)

a community server operable to manage a plurality of resource based virtual communities associated with each of a plurality of accessed resources, (communities with resources, section 1)

and operable to connect ones of the plurality of users to the resource based virtual community associated with the accessed resource when they access the resource. (individuals using resources, section I)

As per claim 2, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources is associated with a corresponding community. (sharing rules, section 1)

As per claim 3, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources comprises a web resource. (section 5)

As per claim 4, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource. (section 5)

As per claim 5, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources comprises a unique name. (which service, section 3)

As per claim 6, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

users automatically become members of the resource based virtual community

associated with the accessed resource when they access the resource unless the users

are required to login to the community server. (authorization, section 3)

As per claim 7, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to provide community services to

community members. (section 3.1)

As per claim 8, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to enable communication between

community members. (collaboration, section 1)

As per claim 9, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to enable community members to

perform community activities. (collaboration, section 1)

As per claim 10, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to provide collaboration between

community members. (collaboration, section 1)

As per claim 15, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to enable new community services from

community members. (individual representing community, section 3.1)

As per claim 16, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the resources comprise private resources having a unique name. (which service,

section 3)

As per claim 17, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community servers is further operable to provide community member

authentication services. (authorization, section 3)

As per claim 18, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is provided by the resource server by setting up and

serves the virtual community along with the resource. (section 1)

As per claim 19, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each of the plurality of web resource servers is operable to contact other

community servers to provide community services. (section 3)

As per claim 22, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to uniquely identify each community

member across multiple communities. (section 3)

As per claim 25, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to keep statistical information regarding

the community. (provide 30% of its resources, section 3)

As per claim 26, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to connect users who have accessed

the same resource and users who are accessing the same resource. (section 3)

As per claim 27, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

a proxy server coupled to the community server and a web resource server, the

proxy server operable to serve a web resource content and connect to the community

based on the resource being served. (security, section 2)

As per claim 28, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the community server is further operable to combine a plurality of communities

into a larger community based upon similar topical resources. (section 3)

As per claim 73, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

A method of forming resource based virtual communities comprising the steps of:
(see abstract)

providing a community server operable to manage a plurality of resource based

virtual communities associated with each of a plurality of accessed resources;

(communities with resources, section 1)

each of a plurality of users accessing the resources; (consumers using

resources, section 1)

and each of the plurality of users connecting to the resource based virtual

community associated with the accessed resource. (virtual organization using resource,

section 1)

As per claim 74, Pearlman teaches

the resource being accessed by the user is a web resource, including a web site,

a web page, a newsgroup, or a discussion forum. (section 6)

As per claim 75, Pearlman teaches

the resource being accessed by the user is a non-web resource, including a

software product, a bulletin board, a game, an FTP site, a file, an image, a photo, or

products that can be shared by users. (FTP, section 6)

As per claim 76, Pearlman teaches

each of the plurality of accessed resources is associated with a corresponding

resource based virtual community. (sharing rules, section 1)

As per claim 77, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

enabling new community services from community members. (resource

providers, section 1)

As per claim 78, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

providing users community information and community services; including hit

count, total users, current users, feedback, comments, ratings, reviews, references or

other useful information for the resource. (accounting, section 9.1)

As per claim 79, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

enabling users collaboration with other community members; including making

comments, publishing reviews, rating resources, writing notes, sending messages,

sharing whiteboards, chatting, helping each other, asking and answering questions,

exchanging ideas, interests matching scheduling meetings, online auctions, online

dating, broadcasting or other campaigns such as marketing or advertisements.

(collaboration, section 1)

As per claim 80,

each of the plurality of users accessing the resources and resource based

communities comprises the steps of: (see abstract)

each of a plurality of users accessing the resources; (section 1)

the accessed resource returning the original resource; (section 1)

and the accessed resource connecting users to the virtual community based on

the accessed resource. (section 3)

As per claim 81,

each of the plurality of users accessing the resources comprises the steps of :

(section 1)

each of a plurality of users accessing the resources through a proxy server;

(section 2.2)

the proxy server returning the original resource; (section 2.2)

and the proxy server connecting the user to the virtual community based on the

accessed resource. (section 2.2)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   Claims 11-14,20-21,24,29-30,60-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Pearlman et al. ('Pearlman' hereinafter) ("A community

authorization service for group collaboration" by Pearlman, L., Welch, V., Foster, I.,

Kesselman, C. and Tuecke, S.; Policies for Distributed Systems and Networks, 2002.

Proceedings Third International Workshop on 5-7 June 2002; Page(s): 50 - 59) in view

of Matthews et al. ('Matthews' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2003/0050986 A1).

        As per claim 11,

        Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to

provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community."

        However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operable to

provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community"

(paragraph [0057]).

        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of

"the community server is further operable to provide notification to community members

when a new user joins the community" would have given those skilled in the art the

tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members.

This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between

members available.

As per claim 12,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operable to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community" (email, paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operable to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

As per claim 13,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to provide community members with information regarding the community."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operable to provide community members with information regarding the community" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of

"the community server is further operable to provide community members with

information regarding the community" would have given those skilled in the art the tools

to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between members of the community.

This gives the user the advantage of being able to communicate effectively with

community members.

As per claim 14, Pearlman teaches

"the information comprises information presented to the community members

while they are accessing the resource. (section 6)

As per claim 20,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is disposed behind a

firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is disposed behind a

firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet" (paragraph [0028]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of

"the community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to

users in an intranet" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the

invention by providing security for members of the community. This gives the user the

advantage of having their data and community safe from security risks.

As per claim 21,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to provide user privacy preferences to community members."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operable to provide user privacy preferences to community members" (block, paragraph [0064]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operable to provide user privacy preferences to community members" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by providing security for members of the community. This gives the user the advantage of having their data and community safe from security risks.

As per claim 24,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to organize an information content of each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operable to organize an information content of each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operable to organize an information content of each

virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages" would have given those skilled in

the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the

community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface

whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 29

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to

enable searches of each of the plurality of communities."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operable to

enable searches of each of the plurality of communities" (paragraph [0025]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of

"the community server is further operable to enable searches of each of the plurality of

communities" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention

by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the

advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the

pages.

As per claim 30,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to

provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities."

However, <u>Matthews</u> discloses "the community server is further operable to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities" (paragraph [0025]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Matthews</u> because using the steps of "the community server is further operable to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 60, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

A global universal virtual community server system for mapping each of a plurality of resources to a virtual community area by resource URL comprising: (see abstract)

a global universal community server including the plurality of virtual community areas, each of a plurality of resource mapped to a virtual community area; (communities with resources, section 1)

and a global user database within the global universal virtual community server that holds all user information for users accessing any of the plurality of resources, ... , the virtual community areas holding community information, data and links related to

each of the users in the global user database. (community authorization service, section

1)

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "including a user IP address or email

address".

However, Matthews discloses "including a user IP address or email address"

(email, paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Matthews because using the steps of

"including a user IP address or email address" would have given those skilled in the art

the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community

members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication

between members available.

As per claim 61, Pearlman teaches

the virtual community areas are stored in directories, files, or databases. (Unix

account, section 2.4)

As per claim 62, Pearlman teaches

the global universal virtual community server comprises a group of servers. (CAS

server contains entries for servers, section 3)

As per claim 63, Pearlman teaches

the global user database comprises a distributed database. (distributed, section

3.1)

As per claim 64, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each virtual community area is created on demand when a first user accesses a

resource. (section 9.1)

As per claim 65, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the global user database creates a new user record only when a new user entry

is queried and is not in the database. (section 3.1)

As per claim 66,

<u>Pearlman</u> does not explicitly indicate "each virtual community area comprises a

web server or web pages."

However, <u>Matthews</u> discloses "each virtual community area comprises a web

server or web pages" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Matthews</u> because using the steps of

"each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages" would have given

those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to

information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a

common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 67, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each virtual community area comprises information regarding the community.

(section 1)

As per claim 68, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each virtual community area comprises server side components that support

user and community interactivity and activities. (section 6)

As per claim 69, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

each virtual community area may utilize server side technologies including server

side script, CGI, Servlet, web services and weblogs. (logs, section 9.1; 'may' denotes an

optionally recited limitation and optionally recited limitations are not guaranteed to take

place and are therefore not required to be taught, see MPEP § 2106 Section II(C))

As per claim 70, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the global user database comprises the current status of individual user's

information. (section 1)

As per claim 71, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the global user database stores users' personal data including messages from

other users, preferences or privacy and security settings. (section 3)

As per claim 72, <u>Pearlman</u> teaches

the universal community server is operable to group different community areas

together to form a larger community for a bigger scope of resources. (section 3)

8.   Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

<u>Pearlman et al.</u> ('<u>Pearlman</u>' hereinafter) ("A community authorization service for group

collaboration" by Pearlman, L., Welch, V., Foster, I., Kesselman, C. and Tuecke, S.;

Policies for Distributed Systems and Networks, 2002. Proceedings Third International

Workshop on 5-7 June 2002; Page(s): 50 - 59) in view of <u>Katzman et al.</u> ('<u>Katzman</u>'

hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0046051 A1).

As per claim 23,

<u>Pearlman</u> does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operable to

track community member's activities with the community member's permission."

However, <u>Katzman</u> discloses "the community server is further operable to track

community member's activities with the community member's permission" (paragraph

[0082]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Katzman</u> because using the steps of "the

community server is further operable to track community member's activities with the

community member's permission" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to

improve the invention by trends to be tracked for future on-line business use. This gives

the user the advantage of being able to have the choice of being tracked for future

opportunities or other use.

9.   Claims 82-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Pearlman et al. ('Pearlman' hereinafter) ("A community authorization service for group

collaboration" by Pearlman, L., Welch, V., Foster, I., Kesselman, C. and Tuecke, S.;

Policies for Distributed Systems and Networks, 2002. Proceedings Third International

Workshop on 5-7 June 2002; Page(s): 50 - 59) in view of Dinan et al. ('Dinan'

hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0097267 A1).

        As per claim 82, Pearlman teaches

        each of the plurality of users connecting to the resource based virtual community

associated with the accessed resource comprises the steps of: (see abstract)

        Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "a client side software installed to user's

computer discovering the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software

connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource."

        However, Dinan discloses "a client side software installed to user's computer

discovering the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting

the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "a client side software installed to user's computer discovering the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 83,

<u>Pearlman</u> does not explicitly indicate "the user accessing the virtual community along with the accessed resource in a non-disrubutive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page."

However, <u>Dinan</u> discloses "the user accessing the virtual community along with the accessed resource in a non-disrubutive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page" (paragraph [0042]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "the user accessing the virtual community along with the accessed resource in a non-disrubutive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon

help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page" would have

given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to

become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience.

This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 84,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "each of the plurality of resources

comprises a non-Internet based product including a software, a product, a device, an

audio, a video, a service or other commodities."

However, Dinan discloses "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-

Internet based product including a software, a product, a device, an audio, a video, a

service or other commodities" (paragraph [0048]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "each

of the plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a

software, a product, a device, an audio, a video, a service or other commodities" would

have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user

to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user

experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete

experience.

As per claim 85,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the user connects to the resource based virtual communities through a mobile device including a PDA and a cellular phone."

However, Dinan discloses "the user connects to the resource based virtual communities through a mobile device including a PDA and a cellular phone" (paragraph [0039]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the user connects to the resource based virtual communities through a mobile device including a PDA and a cellular phone" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 86,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operable to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to the virtual community based on the accessed resource."

However, Dinan discloses "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operable to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to the virtual community based on the accessed resource" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "a

client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operable to detect

users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to the virtual community based on

the accessed resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve

the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to

improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and

more complete experience.

As per claim 87,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software also provides a

toolbar button installable on user's browser operable to connect to the resourced based

virtual community when selected by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software also provides a toolbar button

installable on user's browser operable to connect to the resourced based virtual

community when selected by the user" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the

client side software also provides a toolbar button installable on user's browser operable

to connect to the resourced based virtual community when selected by the user" would

have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user

to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user

experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete

experience.

As per claim 88,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser operable for connecting to the resourced based virtual community when selected by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser operable for connecting to the resourced based virtual community when selected by the user" (paragraph [0039]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser operable for connecting to the resourced based virtual community when selected by the user" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 89,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 90,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is operable to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the main resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is operable to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the main resource" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is operable to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the main resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user

experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete

experience.

As per claim 91,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a standalone

software agent."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a standalone software

agent" (paragraph [0062]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the

client side software is a standalone software agent" would have given those skilled in

the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved

in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the

advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 92,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is operable to

discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from

browsers."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is operable to discover current

web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers"

(paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is operable to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 93,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is operable to detect the current resource being used by hooking into the protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening to the system or windows event from browsers, or hooking into process, system and network APIs."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is operable to detect the current resource being used by hooking into the protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening to the system or windows event from browsers, or hooking into process, system and network APIs" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is operable to detect the current resource being used by hooking

into the protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a

customized content handler; or by listening to the system or windows event from

browsers, or hooking into process, system and network APIs" would have given those

skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more

involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the

user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 94,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a browser."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a browser" (paragraph

[0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the

client side software is a browser" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to

improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community

due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a

faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 95,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is operable to make

multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the

user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities

simultaneously."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is operable to make multiple

connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is

accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities

simultaneously" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the

client side software is operable to make multiple connections to multiple virtual

communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users

to participate in multiple communities simultaneously" would have given those skilled in

the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved

in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the

advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 96,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a browser plugin

integrated in a user's existing web browser."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a browser plugin integrated

in a user's existing web browser" (paragraph [0042]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the

client side software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser"

would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing

the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user

experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete

experience.

As per claim 97,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the browser plugin includes browser helper

objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html,

connection or protocol filters and any other type of software extension." (paragraph

[0008])

However, Dinan discloses "the browser plugin includes browser helper objects,

plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection or

protocol filters and any other type of software extension" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the

browser plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash,

ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection or protocol filters and any other type

of software extension" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the

invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to

improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and

more complete experience.

As per claim 98

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 99,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is operable to detect the current software used by the user and thon connect to the associated virtual community based on that resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is operable to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to the associated virtual community based on that resource" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "the

client side software is operable to detect the current software used by the user and thon

connect to the associated virtual community based on that resource" would have given

those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become

more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives

the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 100,

<u>Pearlman</u> does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is statically or

dynamically linked to a software resource and operable to run along with the software

resource when the software resource is started by the user."

However, <u>Dinan</u> discloses "the client side software is statically or dynamically

linked to a software resource and operable to run along with the software resource

when the software resource is started by the user" (paragraph [0050]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine <u>Pearlman</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "the

client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and

operable to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started

by the user" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention

by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in

the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 101,

Pearlman does not explicitly indicate "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Pearlman and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7112. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on (571) 272-3642. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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